

Dec^r. 31.

A WORTHY
SPEECH

made by

Master Pym, (John)

TO THE LORDS
ON FRIDAY THE

thirty one of *December* con-
cerning an Information against
the Lord DIGBY.

Wherein is discovered the dan-
gerous effects of the said Information, if not
suddenly prevented, against the Royall power
and Prerogative of the King, and privi-
ledges of Parliament.

In the free votes and proceedings
thereof.

With His Majesties Speech in the House
of Commons 4. *January* 1641.

London, Printed for Thomas Banckes. and F. Coles.

1641.

SPICE

made by

Wm. L. ...

TO THE LORDS

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MASTER

Pym his Speech to the
Lords, at a conference on Friday
the the 31 of *December* concerning an
Information against the Lord
DIGBY.

My Lords,

THe Knights, Citizens and Burgeses of the
House of Commons now assembled in
Parliament, have commanded me to pre-
sent to your Lordships this Information which they
have received against the Right Honorable *George*
Lord Digby, of dangerous consequence, that if not
prevented, evill and troublesome events may in-
sue, to the great hazarding of the peace of this
Kingdome, and a great hindrance of the happy
proceedings of this Parliament.

My Lords,

I humbly crave your patience to declare to your
Lordships what I am commanded concerning the
said Information, which is that hee the said Lord
Digby should give forth report upon reading of
the Petition and Protestation of the 12. Bishops,
That this Present Parliament was a forced one,
That the Act, vote, and Lawes that shall bee En-
acted herein without the votes and assent of the Bi-
shops.

ships are void and of none effect, and not binding to the Subject.

My Lords,

This report is of great danger to the State if proved against the said Lord, in these three respects as I under your Lordships favour conceives.

First, It is a great breach of the Rights and Priviledges of Parliament.

Secondly, It intrencheth much on the prerogative of the King, and abridges his Royall Power.

Thirdly, it is the first steppe to bring into this State an Arbitrary and Tyrannicall forme of Government.

First *my Lords* it is a breach of the priviledges of Parliament for these reasons.

First, it is against the free votes of Parliamentary proceedings, which ought to be reserved and unquestionable, during the free sitting thereof.

Secondly, It is against an Act of Parliament in that case provided for not adjourneing or abrupt breaking off of the same. These Acts my Lords was freely voted by both houses freely and willingly passed by his Majestie without any force or compulsary meanes used in any, or private working or inducing his Majesty by any of the Members of either of the Houses to doe the same: An Act voted as well by the said Lord as the rest of this Honorable House; this report now of his must needs be against his knowledge and former free consent in passing that Act contrary to this Information.

3. One Priviledge of Parliament, and that is
one

one of the greatest is to accuse and freely proceed to the punishment of delinquents, that have caused the troubles in this State, both in Church, and Common-wealth; this report is against this Priviledge, It opposes altogether our Proceeding against the Bishops, accused as the greatest delinquent both in Church and State; for my Lords if a Parliament is forced in the absence of the Bishops, how may then the Parliament proceed lawfully against them; If the Bishops sit and have their votes (although delinquents) in Parliament how can wee proceed (I beseech you) against their votes, therefore under favour I conclude this report of the said Lord is against this Priviledge of Parliament.

4. To redresse the greivances of the Common-wealth, is a Priviledge of Parliament, this report is against this Priviledge, how I pray you my Lords can our greivances be redressed, when the oppressions, Iniustice and vexations, troubling of his Majesties loyall Subjects, may not by the Bishops, may not be called in question, nor the misdoers therein prosecuted and punished for the same.

5. This report is against divers acts of Parliament in this Kingdome, that have beene made without the voice or Bishops in Parliament, as is on record in the Journalls of those, and thus my Lords, I have shewed you that how this report is against the priviledges of Parliament.

2. My Lords, this information intrencheth on the royall power and Prerogative of the King, And that in two respects.

1. His

1. His royall Prerogative in making, and enact-
ing lawes by Parliament, it resting onely in his
power to passe or, refuse the votes of Parliament.

My Lords.

The King of this kingdome have the greatest
perogative (to require the Councell an assistance
the whole state upon any occasion whatsoever,
when pleaseth him) of any Prince in the world
unlesse *France*, and under favour my Lords, I con-
ceive a Parliament cannot be termed forced, when
it is freely called, and willingly continued by the
King, I conceive my Lords a forced Parliament
(is) when against the free consent of a King and
his Lords without lawfull calling by writ men
assembleth themselves, and by force of armes
sit in Couucell and enact lawes, not tending to the
welfare of the Kingdome. The Parliament holden
at *Oxford* in the raigne of *Edward* 2. after the un-
happy dissolution of the Parliament at *Westminster*,
in the 10. yeare of that Kings raigne, was a forced
Parliament, compelling by undue meanes, the
King and that Parliament to enact lawes tending
to the ruine of the whole state of this Kingdome.

2 My Lords, this Information intrencheth on
the Royall power of the King in makeing of Laws,
for as before I haue touched Parliaments haue
bin without Bishoppes Lawes made and enacted
without their votes, then by this supersiou my
Lords should they be of no validitie the King re-
strained in his power, and let Bishops be never so
vile and affected to the tranquillitie and secure-
ty of the state yet must they have votes in rectifying
and setting in order such things as are amisse in the
same,

same, (aswell by their owne procureing as others) which is not then likely to take any good effect, may my Lords it is too Apparant they have beene the greatest opposers of our proceedings in the Parliament the Cheifest cause noe more is doue by the same.

3 Lastly my Lords this Information is the first stepp to bring in an Arbitrary and t ranieall forme of Government, and that under favour for these reasons.

1. Free Parliaments are the securest and safest Government that euer could be found for this nation, and that in respect of the power and wisdom therof, it is vpholden defended and preserved by the whole body of the kingdome, therefore powerfull, the members therof are men elected, one of tenn thousand by the whole state, therefore the wise, then to oppose the proceeding there of to deny the Government therof is, to the intent to change the same and if charged to another forme (None being soe secure, soe powerfull and soe wise) must needs be Arbitrary and soe, Tiranicall.

2. My Lords, I no lawes can be bindjng to the subject, but such as are voted and assented to by the Bishops, then none can be expected, but such as are destructive to the state, their affections being altogether aberted from free Parliamentary proceedings and their designes, onely agitated, for the opposing the government thereof, and wee cannot but dayly feare thereby the utter confusion thereof, of the same.

Now my Lords having to my weake Abillity fulfilled

fulfilled the command of, the House, in speaking somewhat of this Information I am to desire your Lordships from them, that the said *George Lord Digby* may answer the said Information, or otherwise be proceeded against, as the Parliament shall think fit.

HIS

MAJESTIES SPEECH;

In the House of Commons, 4 January 1641.

Gentlemen.

I Am sorry for this occasion of coming unto you : yesterday I sent a Sergeant at armes upon a very important occasion, to apprehend some that by my command were accused of high Treason, wherunto I did expect obedience, and not a Message. And I must declare unto you here, that albeit no King that ever was in England shall be more carefull of your Priviledges, to maintaine them to the uttermost of his power then I shall be ; yet you must know, that in cases of Treason no person hath a priviledge, and therefore I am come to know if any of those persons that were accused are here; for I must tell you, Gentlemen, that so long as these persons that I have accused for no slight crime, but for Treason) are here, I cannot expect that this House can be in the right way that I do heartily wish it : Therefore I am come to tell you, that I must have them wheresoever I finde them; well, sithence I see all the Birds are flowne, I do expect from you, that you shall send them unto me as soone as they returne hither : But I assure you, in the word of a King, I never did intend any force, but shall proceed against them in a legall and fair way, for I never meant any other.

And now sithence I see I cannot do what I came for, I think this no unfit occasion to repeat what I have said formerly, That what soever I have done in favour, and to the good of my Subjects, I do mean to maintaine it.

I will trouble you no more, but tell you, I do expect as soon as they come to the House, you will send them to me, otherwise I must take my own course to finde them.

FINIS.